

CLAIMS

1. A navigation apparatus of guiding a vehicle to a destination, comprising:

5 a destination setting section of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;

a location deriving section of deriving a current location of the vehicle;

10 a path obtaining section of obtaining a path from the current location derived by the location deriving section as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting section;

15 a data storing section of storing an information set including at least location information for identifying a location of a travel burden point on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver;

20 a point guidance data generating section of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving section, the path obtained by the path obtaining section, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and

25 an output section of outputting the guidance for the travel

burden point in accordance with the point guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating section.

2. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, further
5 comprising:

a travel burden point selecting section of selecting an information set of a travel burden point present within a predetermined range from the current location derived from the location deriving section, from the data storing section, based
10 on the path obtained by the path obtaining section and the current location,

wherein the point guidance data generating section generates point guidance data based on the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section.

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3. The navigation apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the point guidance data generating section compares a reference hesitation value contained in the information set selected by the travel burden point selecting section with a driver characteristic
20 value, and based on a result of the comparison, generates point guidance data.

4. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the output section outputs a voice in accordance with the point
25 guidance data generated by the point guidance data generating

section.

5 5. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the reference hesitation value is calculated and stored after the
path is obtained by the path obtaining section.

10 6. The navigation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the travel burden point is any of a bridge, an entrance of a tunnel,
a grade crossing, an entrance point of an elevated road, a point
where a road width suddenly becomes narrower, an entrance of a
mountain road, an intersection where a road on which the vehicle
is traveling intersects a road having a broader road width, an
entrance of a shopping street, a point where a shrine gate is present,
15 a point where a sign board or a road sign indicating that a
destination is present in a direction different from a travel
direction of a vehicle, and an entrance/exit of a parking lot.

20 7. A guidance method which is performed in a navigation
apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein
the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section
of storing an information set including at least location
information for identifying a location of a travel burden point
on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to
the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value
25 indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the

travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver,
the method comprising:

a destination setting step of setting a destination
in accordance with an input by a driver;

5 a location deriving step of deriving a current location
of the vehicle;

a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the
current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting
point to the destination set by the destination setting step;

10 a point guidance data generating step of generating
point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden
point based on the current location derived by the location deriving
step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, and the
information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the
15 data storing section; and

an output step of outputting the guidance for the
travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data
generated by the point guidance data generating step.

20 8. A computer program which is performed in a navigation
apparatus and is for guiding a vehicle to a destination, wherein

the navigation apparatus comprises a data storing section
of storing an information set including at least location
information for identifying a location of a travel burden point
25 on a road network, link information indicating a road linked to

the travel burden point, and a reference hesitation value indicating a degree of a driver's hesitation to go through the travel burden point, and a characteristic value of the driver, the computer program comprising:

- 5 a destination setting step of setting a destination in accordance with an input by a driver;
- a location deriving step of deriving a current location of the vehicle;
- a path obtaining step of obtaining a path from the
- 10 current location derived by the location deriving step as a starting point to the destination set by the destination setting step;
- a point guidance data generating step of generating point guidance data representing guidance for the travel burden point based on the current location derived by the location deriving
- 15 step, the path obtained by the path obtaining step, and the information set and the driver characteristic value stored in the data storing section; and
- an output step of outputting the guidance for the travel burden point in accordance with the point guidance data
- 20 generated by the point guidance data generating step.

9. The computer program according to claim 8, which is stored in a recording medium.